

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated and purified peptide which blocks the binding of an anti-
HLA class II antibody to a cell expressing HLA class II antigen and is capable of
5 eliciting antibodies reactive against HLA class II antigen.

2. The peptide of claim 1 wherein the sequence of the peptide is
selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3,
SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8.

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3. The peptide of claim 2 wherein the sequence of the peptide is SEQ
ID NO:1.

4. The peptide of claim 2 wherein the sequence of the peptide is SEQ ID
15 NO:5.

5. A method for eliciting antibodies against HLA class II antigen in an
individual comprising the steps of administering to the individual an effective
amount of a HLA class II antigen peptide mimic, wherein said peptide mimic elicits
20 antibodies to HLA class II antigen in the individual

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the peptide has a sequence selected
from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID
NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8 and
25 combinations thereof.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the peptide has a sequence of SEQ
ID NO:1.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the peptide has a sequence SEQ ID
30 NO:5.

9. The method of claim 5, wherein the individual has NHL.
10. The method of claim 5, wherein the peptide mimic is administered in conjunction with radiation therapy.
- 5 11. The method of claim 5, wherein the peptide mimic is administered in conjunction with chemotherapy.
- 10 12. An antigenic composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a peptide which blocks the binding of an anti-HLA class II antibody to a cell bearing HLA class II antigen and is capable of eliciting antibodies reactive against HLA class II antigen.
- 15 13. The antigenic composition of claim 12 further comprising an adjuvant.
- 20 14. The antigenic composition of claim 12 wherein the peptide has a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6.
- 25 15. The antigenic composition of claim 12, wherein the peptide has a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
16. The antigenic composition of claim 12, wherein the peptide has a sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.
17. The antigenic composition of claim 12 the wherein the cell bearing HLA class II antigen is a tumor cell.